CATALYST

Web-based Reporting System

Washington State Department of Health
Julia Dilley
Stacy Scheel
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Presentation Objectives

- Share WA's experience in developing a webbased reporting system
- Briefly discuss system functionality/purpose
- Share resources with other states

CATALYST Purposes

Primary

- Provide standardized reporting of program outputs to WA DOH from local school, community, and tribal programs (for comparison with local surveillance data)
- Enhance contract management

Secondary

- Facilitate collaboration among local programs
- Increase "institutional memory" within organizations
- Decrease the burden, and increase usefulness of reporting for local programs

Phased Development

- Phase I Contract Management
- Phase II Activity Evaluation
- Phase III Enhancements

Development Timeline

- Fall 2000 Development begins
- June 2001 Phase I statewide trainings
- January 2002 Phase II Release
- July 2002 Second year of data collection
- Fall 2002 Second round of statewide trainings

System Specifications

System

- SQL server 7.0
- Active server pages
- VB, Java Scripting & Stored Procedures

User

Developed for PC/I.E. 5.5 & Mac/Netscape 6.0

Current System Users

- About 175 users across the state
 - State staff (up to 10 users, both monitoring and reporting)
 - State level contractors (3 contractors)
 - Local health, community orgs (30-40 contractors)
 - Schools (9 contractors, with 296 "subcontractors")
 - Washington tribes (22 contractors)
- Three system administrators

What is web-based system administration?

Allows for rapid response, flexibility, and customization to meet users needs

- Manage user logins and passwords
- Populate dropdown menus with standardized lists
- Manage toolbar options
- Set securities for system access
- Update system welcome messages
- Add surveys and tracking tools
- Link to external websites

DOH enters all Users

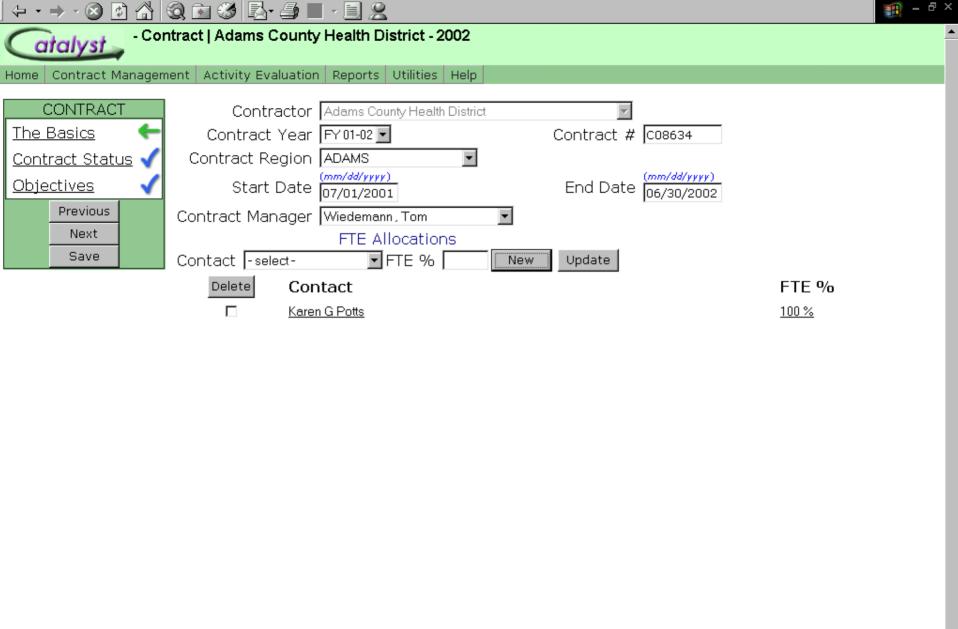
- Contractor Organizational Name
- Contractor type
 - Community
 - School
 - Tribe
 - Statewide contractor
- Once an organization is "in", they can have a contract assigned for as many years as necessary

What information does CATALYST collect from users each year?

- Contact Information
- Contract Specifics
- Work Plan
- Outputs/Events
- Subcontract Information
- Pre/Post Test Results
- Tracking Information

First, DOH Creates Contracts

- Contract Dates
- Record of funding amounts
- Estimate % allocation/objective
- Contract Amendment notes
- Lock workplan











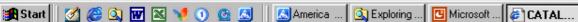






















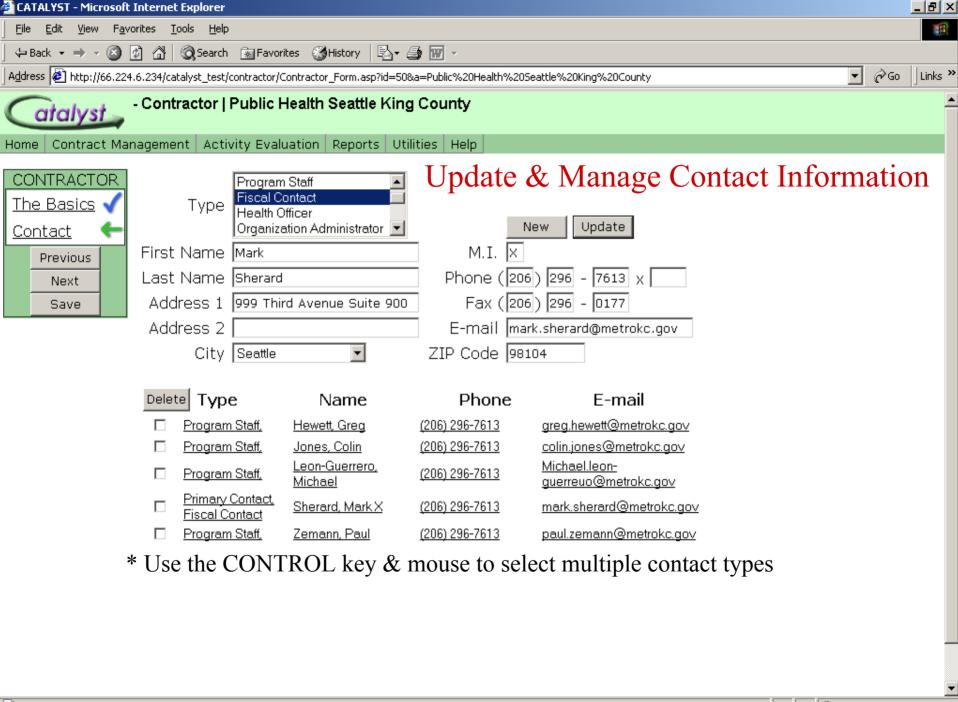






Users Add Contact Information

- Agency Address
- Individual contact info for all tobacco FTEs existence of the contact meets DOH requirements for dedicated staff
- Multiple contact types
- Primary contact appears on planned activity reports

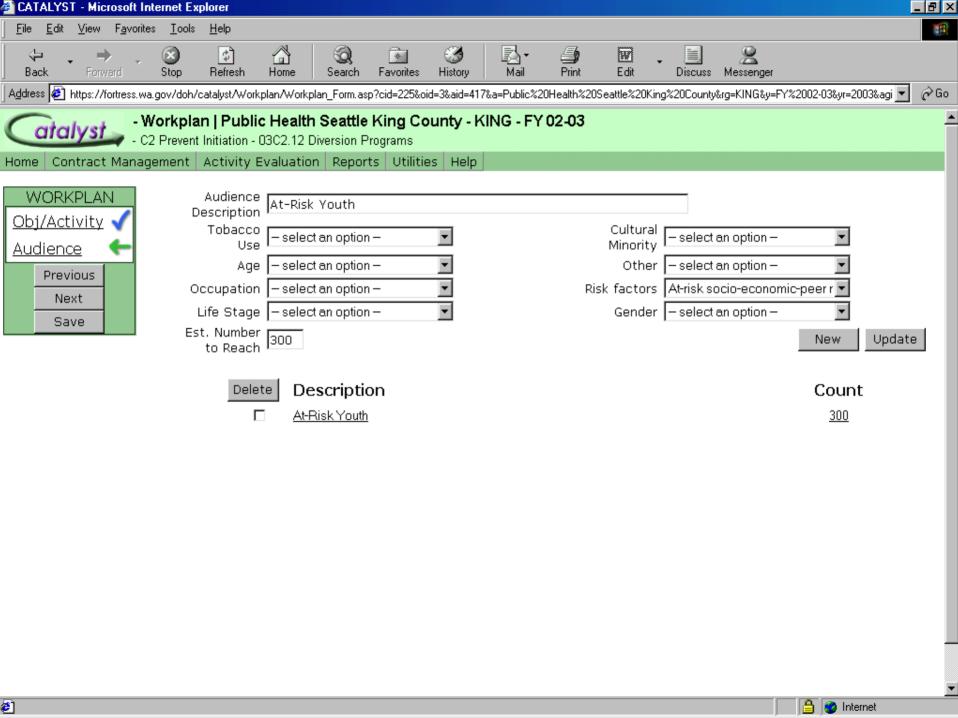






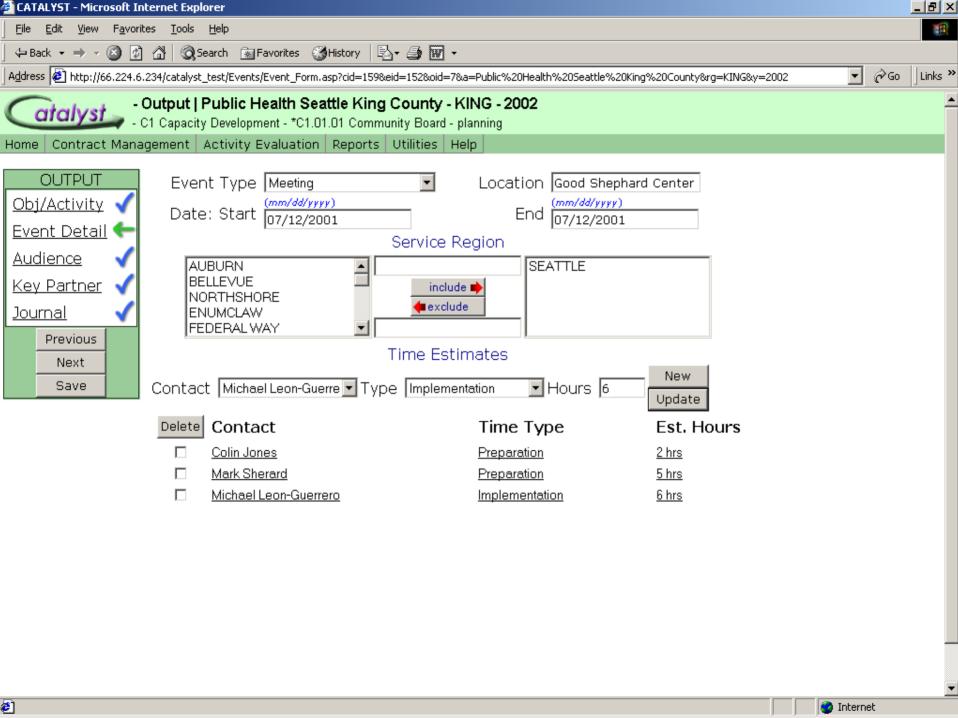
Users Enter a Workplan

- Workplan report replaces paper version
 "Statement of Work" for contracts with DOH
- Once approved, workplan locked by DOH
- Planned activities accessible by other users
- Workplan workbook developed as a guide for creating a workplan using standardized activity lists



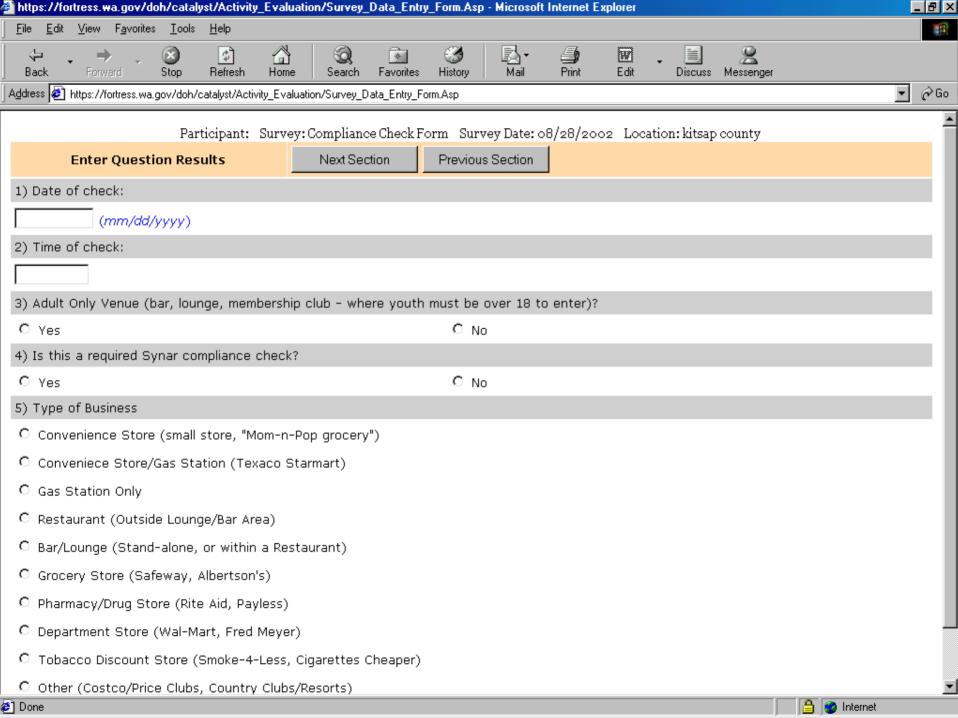
Users Report Outputs

- Report on Workplan Activities
- Quantitative / Qualitative
- Report on Unplanned activities
- Key Partners
- Event Details
- Historical Journal



Users Attach Survey Data

- 17 standardized surveys in CATALYST
- Surveys linked to activities in CATALYST
- Activity evaluation reports allow for quick access to survey data and generate frequencies and percents
- Data download feature enables transfer to statistical package for further analysis



Anyone Can Run a Report

- 25 reports currently in CATALYST
- Selection criteria gives users the ability to query each report in a variety of ways
- Planned activity reports and Contact reports can be viewed by anyone with a login
- Users can only view their own "actuals" for themselves and/or subcontractors, but DOH staff can see everything

Local Questions:

- What was our experience with a particular activity – how many served, and where?
- What are other contractors that "look like me" doing in their workplans?
- What activities have targeted cultural minorities?
- How much time/value has a particular partner contributed during a certain time period?

State Questions:

- How are we doing at accomplishing the activities in our workplans? (can we pay the invoice?)
- How many school programs are working with Life Skills?
- What is a particular contractor doing overall or in a particular area?
- How is our funding distributed overall?

Summary of WA Experience

- Standardized data to track program implementation, locally and statewide – instantly
- Progress toward better communication among local programs
- Progressing toward improved contract management
- Improved focus on evaluation issues among all partners
- Helps larger local programs to track subcontractor activities
- Enables targeted outcome-based evaluation of a few activities (youth diversion, TATU, storefront advertising)

We're sure glad we....

- Had tons of involvement from stakeholders in development – included them as part of the team
- Had lots of money available
- Had lots of administrative and technical support within our agency
- Had creative, enthusiastic, workaholic staff support in DOH and among CATALYST team
- Had constant cheerleading from program staff working with contractors

Future Directions for WA

- Quality improvement for system data especially qualitative data
- Continued engagement of local partners to enhance and improve the system
- Providing more interpretive reports:
 Summarization of activity implementation statewide, regionally, by contractor type, and among specific population groups

What about my state?

- CATALYST is free (public domain)
- Your state's tailored frameworks can be entered
- Unless you have a big budget and staff capacity don't start from scratch
- We're interested in collaboration with other states
- Cost savings over time

There's plenty of work left...

- CATALYST programming language could be used as the basis for an entirely different reporting framework
- Partnership does not mean dropping any current processes
- You probably can't overestimate the amount of stakeholder work that needs to be done forever

CATALYST Support Network

- Project Lead
- Project Manager
- Full-time technical support person
- 3 state contract managers
- CATALYST hosted by DOH-DIRM
- 1 programmer
- Evaluation staff to ensure data quality

Training & Support

- Training, reference materials, and copies of standardized tools available through the CATALYST User Support-Contractors Tools Web link
- DOH has a full-time staff member who has technical support as her #1 priority
- Ongoing trainings offered for new staff or new users
- DOH maintains a user listserv

Making Modifications

- Code available to agencies moving toward web-based reporting
- License agreement
- Costs include hosting, modifications, maintenance, implementation

THANK YOU

For more information on CATALYST please contact:

Julia Dilley

Washington State Dept. of Health 360-236-3632 julia.dilley@doh.wa.gov

Stacy Scheel

Contractor 360-970-1137 tobaccoprev@aol.com